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UNITED STATES PURE FOOD AND DRUGS LAW.

A CONVICTION FOR SELLING FOODSTUFF CONTAINING ARSENIC.

A New York dealer was convicted under the United States pure food and drugs law of selling and shipping in interstate commerce shellac varnish which contained minute quantities of arsenic. The varnish was sold for use in glazing cheap candies. The dealer contended that the amount of arsenic which could possibly be consumed by a person eating the candy was so small that it would not be injurious to health, but the jury thought otherwise.

The opinion of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals sustaining the conviction is published at page 550 of this issue of the Public Health Reports.

SALE AND USE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

THE INCREASE IN RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION AND THE PRACTICABILITY OF A SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION OF DEALERS IN ALCOHOL FOR MEDICINAL AND MECHANICAL PURPOSES.

By MARTIN I. WILBERT, Technical Assistant, Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

Legislation designed to restrict the manufacture, sale, and use of intoxicating liquors is attracting an unusual amount of attention at the present time. During the year ended January 2, 1916, no less than eight States enacted or began to enforce State-wide prohibition laws. These States include Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arkansas, and South Carolina. With Virginia, where the law becomes operative in 1916, a total of 19 States have adopted State-wide prohibition up to the present time.

From the available data it would appear that the annual per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages amounts to about 22 gallons. It also appears that the annual consumption has steadily increased from approximately 4 gallons in 1850 to over 22 gallons in 1910, followed by a very slight decrease since that time.